

# **Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project**



Publication of  
**THE NATION**

The grant from the Government of Japan  
presented to the Government and People of Thailand  
on the auspicious occasion of  
the Sixtieth Birthday of His Majesty the King  
December 5, B.E. 2530 (A.D. 1987)  
as a token of friendship and cooperation  
between Japan and the Kingdom of Thailand

# CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETION OF THE BANG NARA IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT



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## Message from the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives



**T**he Bang Nara River Basin Development Project was originated through His Majesty the King's Most Profound Compassion, conferred upon the Royal Irrigation Department in 1980.

Through the generous assistance of the Government of Japan the construction of Phase 1 of the Project consisting of only the tidal regulator was completed in August 1990.

The Bang Nara River is now transformed into a fresh-water reservoir, permitting the people who live in the various districts of Narathiwat Province to escape the hardships caused by sea tides, floods and a chronic shortage of fresh water.

The Phase 2 of the Project will provide a complete irrigation system, viz., distribution and drainage canals expected to be completed in 1996. At that time, the people living within the river basin will enjoy all of the benefits of the development project.

On the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's presiding over the Opening Ceremony of the Upper Bang Nara Tidal Regulator, it gives me great pleasure and pride to announce that the Royal Irrigation Department has achieved Phase 1 of His Majesty's Royal Initiative here.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks and best wishes to everyone who has played a role in the development of this river basin for the well-being and benefit of the people of Narathiwat Province. Thank you.

Chuan Leekpai

## Message from the Japanese Ambassador



**S**incere congratulations and best wishes to the Royal Irrigation Department upon the auspicious occasion of the inauguration of the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project today.

The Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project marks another valuable milestone in cooperative projects between the Government of Japan and the Government of Thailand in agricultural development in the south of Thailand.

Located in Muang District Narathiwat Province, the project will facilitate various agricultural functions including a water drainage system for flood prevention and a fresh-water reservoir for human consumption and cultivation purposes.

I therefore hope sincerely that this latest project, undertaken in cooperation between Thailand and Japan, will result in an overall and continuing improvement in agricultural in Narathiwat Province.

It gives me great pleasure to express my deep appreciation to all those concerned with this prestigious project between Japan and Thailand, and to congratulate them on its successful completion.

H.E. Hisahiko Okazaki

## Message from the Director-General of the Royal Irrigation Department



**D**ating back to 1980, His Majesty the King paid a visit to the people of Narathiwat Province, when it was found that the people residing in the river basin was suffering quite a hardship with insufficient earnings.

The main cause was then attributable to the influence of the sea tides as well as the geography of the river basin itself.

To alleviate such hardship, valuable advice was conferred upon the Royal Irrigation Department, and His Majesty's Royal Initiative was taken into effect in stages as become practicable.

As an initial stage, a drainage canal, known as Klong Nam Bang, was excavated in order to drain excessive water into the Gulf of Thailand through the drainage regulator constructed at the end of the canal adjacent to the sea. This regulator serves to prevent also the inflow of the sea water at high tides. This work began in 1981 and was completed in 1983.

As scope of work was extended to cover the overall river basin, the Thai Government approached the Government of Japan for assistance, which approach was generously responded. A Grant-Aid was provided as a symbol of friendship to the Thai people and to commemorate the event of His Majesty's Sixtieth Birthday Anniversary.

The Upper and Lower Tidal Regulators, which form a major element of Phase 1 of the Bang Nara River Basin Development Project had, therefore, come into existence and were completed in August 1990.

I have the pleasure and I am proud that the Royal Irrigation Department has achieved to one stage of His Majesty's desires.

On this event, I wish to express my thanks to all persons who lend their hands on the Project up to this achievement.

*Chari Tulayanond.*

**Chari Tulayanond**

## Message from the Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency



**I**t is a great honour and pleasure to express my sincere congratulations to the Royal Irrigation Department on the grand opening of the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project.

Realizing the importance of the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project, the Japanese Government entrusted the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to conduct the feasibility study and the basic design study on the project and decided in line with these study results to grant financial aid to the Royal Irrigation Department for the construction of tidal regulators at the lower and upper Bang Nara river in Narathiwat province.

The project, initiated to celebrate the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's birthday, is considered an effective way to help alleviate problems regarding soil erosion, water shortage, floods and low agricultural production.

I am confident that the project will be beneficial to the development of soil quality and to increasing crop cultivation for the benefit of the local people.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my best wishes to the Royal Irrigation Department and to all those concerned with further development projects in this region in the years ahead.

*Nobuji Abe*

**Nobuji Abe**

# Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project — A harvest of benefits for the South

One of the most important riverine systems of the south of Thailand is the Bang Nara River and its tributaries, a system of waterways which lies mainly in the province of Narathiwat. The river is important for the agriculture of the fertile region and for the livelihood of the people. Nearly every year however, because of poor drainage, the river causes problems of flooding and excessive salinity.

During the rainy season, water flowing from the tributaries drains into the Bang Nara and inevitably causes flooding in surrounding low-lying areas of Narathiwat. The varying level of the river also causes excessive salinity at certain times of the year. Both of these factors wreak considerable damage on crops and plantations in the region.



In October 1980, on his visit to Kubae Salor Village in Muang District of Narathiwat province, His Majesty the King saw first-hand the problems faced by people earning their living on the two sides of the Bang Nara River. His Majesty suggested that a develop-

ment project for the area be initiated to help alleviate the yearly problems of flooding.

The project that stemmed from His Majesty's initiative envisioned extensive irrigation and drainage systems, fresh-water reservoirs for human con-

sumption and for agriculture, and tidal regulators at both ends of the Bang Nara River. The first phase of the project, the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project, is officially inaugurated today, September 28, 1990.

# Bang Nara — Two steps for a better life

In response to the King's suggestion to develop a drainage system in Narathiwat, the Royal Irrigation Department initially excavated the Nam Baeng Canal to drain water from the Bang Nara River to the Gulf of Thailand. A tidal regulator was also built at the mouth of the canal to relieve flood problems in areas surrounding the Bang Nara River. The construction of the canal and the tidal regulator really gave the impetus for the whole Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project.

After construction of the Nam Baeng Canal was completed in 1983, the department asked the Japanese Government for assistance in conducting a fundamental study on the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project. The outcome of the study was that such a project would be beneficial to economic and social development in Narathiwat.

A year later, in June 1984, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives proposed to the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation that grant aid received from the Japanese Government be used to plan the project. The study for phase one of the project was completed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on June 1985.



By the time of His Majesty's 60th birthday celebrations in 1987, the Japanese Government granted financial support of Bt812 million to

complete the scheme. This was in addition to the Thai Government's budget of Bt682.34 million.

The design for the structure of two





tidal regulators got underway in April 1987 and was completed by June 1988. With a budget of Bt1,006.69 million, construction on the upper and lower tidal regulators commenced in December 1988. Built by Ohbayashi Corporation Limited, the regulators were completed in August 1990.

The two tidal regulators at the upper reaches of the Bang Nara River in Wornua, Muang District and the lower stretch of the River in Pron, Narathiwat's Takbai District will help prevent brackish water flowing into the river. They will also retain fresh

water for agricultural purposes and daily consumption.

Phase two of the Bang Nara project, covering a total area of 105,000 rai of land, includes irrigation systems to supply water to plantation areas and to drain water from flooded areas. With the budget of Bt487.65 million, phase two of the project is scheduled to be completed by the fiscal year 1996. It will be of great benefit to agriculture in the area.

Upon completion, the lives of many Narathiwat residents will be upgraded. The area of 105,000 rai of

land, once excessively salty, will be suitable for crop growing. The project will alleviate flooding by draining excess water into the sea. It will also facilitate a large reservoir to hold water for human consumption and for agriculture. Parts of the project will be ideally suited to fresh-water fish and shrimp farming and the project could become a major breeding centre for the whole of the Kingdom.

These factors will all lead to the betterment of the standard of living of those who live and make their living in the Bang Nara area.

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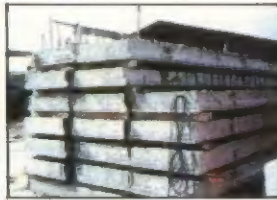
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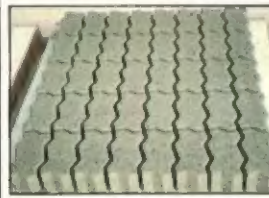
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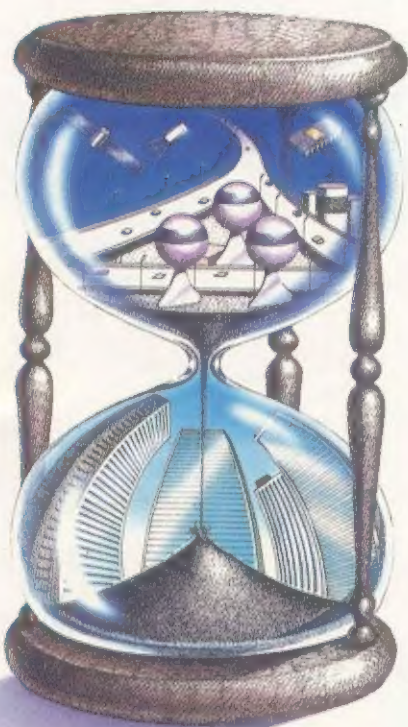
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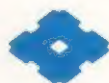
## Congratulations to the Bang Nara Irrigation and Drainage Project on their Grand Opening



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L. Khunlee Construction Co., Ltd. is pleased to be a part of a project initiated by His Majesty the King's wish and suggestion for the construction of tidal regulators to develop agricultural areas and an irrigation system in Narathiwat province.

The construction is divided into two sections. Sited in Kuluwor Nua, Muang district of Narathiwat province, the first section is a tidal regulator at the upper part of the Bang Nara River. The second section is a tidal regulator at the lower part of the river in Takjai district of Narathiwat province.

With financial support from the Japanese Government, this project is supervised by the Royal Irrigation Department. L. Khunlee Construction Co., Ltd. is responsible for the structure of the lower and upper tidal regulators, control tower, and water level.

L. Khunlee Construction Co., Ltd. therefore takes pride in the achievement of this project. With assistance from every party concerned, people in Narathiwat province and neighbouring areas in the provinces will benefit enormously from its success.



CHAIRMAN



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# **WARMEST FELICITATIONS TO THE ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE BANG NARA IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**



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